**LONGFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District**

**held in the Council Chamber Aras an Chontae and via MS Teams**

**on Wednesday, 25 October 2023 at 4pm**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Martin Monaghan

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Uruemu Adejinmi, John Browne, Seamus Butler, Peggy Nolan, Gerry Warnock, Gerry Hagan

**IN ATTENDANCE**: Mr. Michael Nevin, A/Director of Services

Mr. Eamon Bennett, Senior Executive Engineer

Ms. Lorraine McKee, Administrative Officer

Mr. John McKeon, Head of Finance

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR:**  Ms. Claire McNabola

**APOLOGIES:**  Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES – circulated**
2. On the proposal of Councillor John Browne seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler it was unanimously agreed to adopt Minutes of Meeting of Longford Municipal District held on Wednesday 27 September 2023, as circulated.
3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Councillor Seamus Butler commented on the absence of an agenda item in relation to the fees generated from parking fines in the Longford area, as was raised at the September meeting of Longford Municipal District. This issue was unanimously supported by all elected members.

Head of Finance John McKeon confirmed that this issue will be discussed at the Council Budget meeting in late November.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None.

1. **MANAGEMENT REPORT - circulated**

The Management Report, as circulated, was noted. Senior Executive Engineer Eamon Bennett gave an update on works being carried out around the municipal district and answered any questions raised by the members.

Richard Smith was present at the meeting and answered questions in relation to:

* The Mall Masterplan
* The Skatepark
* Special Needs Playground
* Temporary Ramps on Battery Road

Richard also updated the members on issues arising from the last meeting of Longford MD

* Use of Quad Bikes / Scooters
* Bicycle Stands

1. **CONSIDERATION OF 2024 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION**

John McKeon, Head of Finance gave a comprehensive presentation regarding the General Municipal Allocation 2024 under the following headings and replied to queries raised –

* Budgetary Process – under Local Government Reform Act 2014
* Local Property Tax Variation – retain rates for 2023 and 2024
* Source of Funding for Municipal District
* Acute Financial Challenges for 2024
* No scope to increase local income
* Lowest valued LPT base in Country, maxed at 15%
* Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis
* Members increased rates for 2023
* Local Election Year 2024
* Largest % population increase in the state
* Downward revaluations for Utility Providers
* New service initiatives only part funded
* Inflationary Pressures
* Ever increasing demands for match funding for Capital Projects
* Uisce Eireann Standard Costs
* Fire Service Costs
* Coats for providing services for Multiple Departments
* Rent Review
* Potential Deficit for 2023
* Recruitment Costs
* General Municipal Allocation 2024 Recommendation - €100,000 to be distributed as follows – Active Age – Arts Heritage & Culture – Community Groups- Residents Association – Sport – Tidy Towns/ Development Association’s & Town Twinning
* Longford GMA have provided funded/committed to funding 40 projects.
* Governance

**Longford GMA Sub-Service Allocation 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Service Division** | **Sub-Service** | **Allocation 2023** | **Suggested Allocation 2024** | **Increase/Decrease** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Active Age** | **€2,000** | **€2,000** |  |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Arts, Heritage & Culture** | **€22,100** | **€23,000** |  |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Community Group** | **€22,979** | **€30,452** | **€900** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Residents Association** | **€7,500** | **€8,000** | **€7,473** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Sport** | **€3,300** | **€4,000** | **€500** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Tidy Tows / Development Association** | **€25,000** | **€30,000** | **€5,000** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Town Twinning** | **€4,669** | **€5,000** | **€331** |
| **Balance Unallocated B/F** |  | **€2,452** | **€2,452** |  |
| **Grand Total** |  | **€90,000** | **€102,452** | **€12,452** |

The Elected members thanked John for his very detailed presentation. They also thanked the staff for the administration of the budget. Councillor Seamus Butler supported by all Councillors present proposed they have precedence in relation to the retention of parking revenue within Longford MD. They also stressed that funds in GMA should be allocated per Elected Member not per Electoral Area. The members welcomed the 11.1% increase in the GMA.

John McKeon provided detailed responses to all the questions raised.

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan the General Municipal Allocation for Longford MD was adopted.

1. **ROADS ACT 1993 SECTION 11 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS - TEMPLEMICHAEL BUSINESS PARK, BALLINALEE RD, LONGFORD**

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejnmi it was agreed to approve the declaration of Templemichael Business Park, Ballinalee Road, Longford as a public road.

1. **DATE FOR TURNING ON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2023**

On the proposal of Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan it was agreed the switching on of the Christmas Lights in Longford Town would take place on Black Friday 24th November.

The members also agreed the following **Free Parking** Arrangements for the Christmas Period:

Friday 24th November – Black Friday

Saturday 25th November

Saturday 2nd December

Saturday 9th December

Every day from Saturday 16th December to Saturday 30th December

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS, SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLORS, AS LISTED HEREUNDER:**

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler**

I call on Longford County Council to look at repurposing the recreational space in Mac Eoin Park into Social Housing and green space to prevent further dumping of rubbish, and the associated cost of clearing the rubbish, and antisocial behaviour in the area.

**Response from Terry Rooney**

The Housing Technical Team will carry out a technical assessment of the site and consider appropriate actions

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Gerry Warnock and seconded by Councillor John Browne**

I'm calling on Longford MD to mark out by colour pavement and appropriate signage, the designated Bus Stop adjacent to the Boy Scouts Den within The Mall. There are ongoing issues with people parking there and buses cannot at times access their designated area. This is leading to problems with safe disembarkation of passengers (sometimes children with special needs) and at times altercations between bus drivers and people who incorrectly park there.

**Response from Eamon Bennett**

Works will be fully completed in this regard in the short term.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence received from from Longford Garda Station on 2 October 2023 in relation to the enforcement of parking policy in Longford area, was noted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Claire McNabola,**

**Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Longford Municipal District Meeting held on the 22 November 2023.**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Cathaoirleach**